



Every Day Is Precious (logo)

Ways to Help in Helpless Situations

By Rob Payne

## **(Call Out) What You Can Do**

Give them a path.

## **A True Processional**

Our son Matt graduated from high school this year and festivities culminated with the commencement ceremony last Sunday. We were blessed in so many ways, it's hard to know where to begin.

Last week there was a church dinner and ceremony that honored graduating seniors and Marcy was actually able to attend. It was inspirational for me, particularly Matt's youth leader at ClearView Baptist. His talk was very uplifting and forward thinking and made me glad that Matt is part of that God group. I rarely receive Christian feedback from Matt - I thought all the kids just hung out and played video games.

We sent out fifty invitations for the graduation and Matt received tons of gifts, mostly gift cards to help pave the way to college. I felt a little guilty sending to so many people who already help us so much – a graduation invitation often seems like a gift

request. Later, Darcy was disappointed that few people came to the actual ceremony. I told her it was not really expected for them to come, the invitation is more an indicator that the invited person is a part of our family. Then I felt like we didn't send enough invitations.

The occasion allowed us to see family we don't see often. Marcy's sister Joni recently moved to Michigan and made the trip all the way down with her new boyfriend. They drove in his Hummer, so I'm thinking he made one of the biggest sacrifices. Marcy's sister Denise also came in - from Chicago.

Marcy's parents, Dean and Karen (and their three dogs) were up from Florida and planned to stay with us for a few days. To prepare for their visit, our friend Kathy created a beautiful gift basket and polished "their" bedroom. Clyde finished patching some drywall spots for us and Theresa cleaned the rest of the house.

The ceremony itself was in the Allen Arena at Lipscomb University. It was the perfect size and a great venue but traffic and parking were horrific. Traffic volunteers who were directing drivers away from the overfilled parking lot looked into our van, saw Marcy, and allowed us to park right next to the front door. Once inside, ushers took one look at the wheelchair and walked us straight into the sky box where we had very comfortable seating.

This week, as we decompressed here at home, I read through the stack of Matt's graduation cards and their inspirational messages. They helped me look at the big picture. Graduation is a moment in time. And though life is now and this moment is the only moment we have, graduation gives permission for us to look forward in time, even when we know there is no guarantee of tomorrow.

Today we ask God for total restoration for Marcy. But when Marcy was first diagnosed in 2000, when we weren't in step with God's word, doctors told Marcy she had 3 to 5 years to live. One of the first things Marcy said was, "I want to see Matt graduate." Now she has done that, but has also set farther-reaching goals, like a ministry in which she can help others.

If you know someone in need, think of a way, no matter how small, you can help with a life event. A few steps from you can help them look forward and stay on their right path.

*Every Day Is Precious is a column to remind us to treat everyone we see today as if it could be the last time we see them. It is written by Rob Payne, whose wife, Marcy, was diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) in August of 2000. Now 44 years old, she has gone from winning 5 and 10K races to being quadriplegic and on a ventilator at home. For a collection of these columns in book form, more ways to help others, more about Marcy, or to receive email updates on her condition, visit [www.EveryDayIsPrecious.com](http://www.EveryDayIsPrecious.com). Readers may contribute to her care by sending donations to Every Day Is Precious, 2051 Harvington Drive, Franklin, TN, 37069.*

*If you have helped someone without being asked, or know of someone who has, share it with others. Send to [rob@everydayisprecious.com](mailto:rob@everydayisprecious.com) or to Every Day Is Precious, 2051 Harvington Drive, Franklin, TN. 37069.*